

Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR

A great volume of research in medicine and biology has been built up in recent years by Russian scientists. To a considerable degree, this achievement has been due to a consolidation of effort under the auspices of the largest medical and scientific institution in the USSR, the Academy of Medical Sciences.

At present, the Academy has a staff of approximately 10,000, and its yearly budget is nearly 300 million rubles (\$30 million at the tourist rate). The research work is supervised by some 250 active and corresponding members of the Academy. Membership in the Academy is the highest scientific rank in the field of medicine in the USSR.

This monograph presents the history, organization, and functioning of the Academy, its scientific-medical background, and its progress in medical research, covering the 15 years from the Academy's founding in 1944 to 1959. The chapter on organization describes the structure of the Academy of Medical Sciences and its relationship to the Ministry of Health and other organizations. It tries to make clear the internal organization of the departments, institutes, and administrative bodies.

The Academy's policies regarding personnel,

training and degrees, academic standing, and salaries are discussed to the extent that it was possible to gather information from Soviet and other sources. In addition to describing the administration and organization of the Academy, this monograph aims to show the chief areas of medical research in which it is engaged.

The Soviet Government, which finances and controls all scientific work in the USSR, relies to a great extent on plans prepared by the Academy. Its objectives for the Academy under the current 7-year plan, as presented by the Soviet press, are discussed.

Appendixes list all research institutes of the Academy as of January 1959, with locations and names of the directors, and provide a directory of all active and corresponding members of the Academy, giving the dates of their birth and election to the Academy, respective areas of research, and location.

This study is intended for physicians, medical workers, and others interested in the organization of medical research in the Soviet Union. Although it is based primarily on Soviet sources, American and other literature was also consulted. A special effort has been made to bring all information as up to date as possible.

Public Health Monograph No. 63

Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, History and Organization, 1944-59. By Galina V. Zarechnak. Public Health Monograph No. 63 (PHS Pub. No. 702), 48 pages. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1960.

The accompanying summary covers the principal contents of Public Health Monograph No. 63, published concurrently with this issue of *Public Health*

Reports. The author is with the National Library of Medicine, Public Health Service.

Readers wishing the data in full, official agencies, and others directly concerned may obtain single sample copies without charge from the Public Inquiries Branch, Office of Information, Public Health Service. Copies will be found also in the libraries of professional schools and the major universities and in selected public libraries.